

Testimony

Submitted to the Education Committee

SB 473 - An Act Concerning Magnet Schools

March 17, 2014

Good afternoon Senator Stillman, Representative Fleischmann, Representative McCrory, Senator Bye, and members of the Education Committee. My name is Alan Addley and I am the Superintendent of the Granby Public Schools. I also serve as the President of the Hartford Area Superintendents' Association (HASA). I am writing to seek an amendment to SB 473 - An Act Concerning Magnet Schools - that would address its funding model.

I wish to express HASA's support for fair, consistent and reliable funding of magnet school tuition for sending and receiving schools. Several schools in the Hartford region (ie: Manchester, East Hartford, Windsor, Bloomfield, New Britain & East Windsor) send between 4% -10% of their students to tuition paying magnet schools at a cost of anywhere between \$1M-\$2.7. Even a small town the size of Granby has increased its magnet school participation by 60% over the past five years at an annual cost of \$175,000. The impact on high participating districts is onerous and the unpredictability of annual budgets can be burdensome and detrimental to the sending districts.

The members and schools districts of HASA have always acknowledged their moral and constitutional obligation to continue to aggressively pursue and offer equal opportunities for high quality education for all our children. Therefore, we encourage the State of Connecticut to assume more of the cost of funding magnet schools statewide and to consider capping the cost to those districts that are sending high percentages of students to magnet schools.

Thank you for your consideration and for your work on behalf of the children of our state.